

VEASEY (C. A.)

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ULCERATION OF THE PALPEBRAL
CONJUNCTIVA.

BY

BY CLARENCE A. VEASEY, A. M., M. D.,
Adjunct Professor of Diseases of the Eye, Philadelphia Polyclinic; Demonstrator of Ophthalmology
in the Jefferson Medical College.

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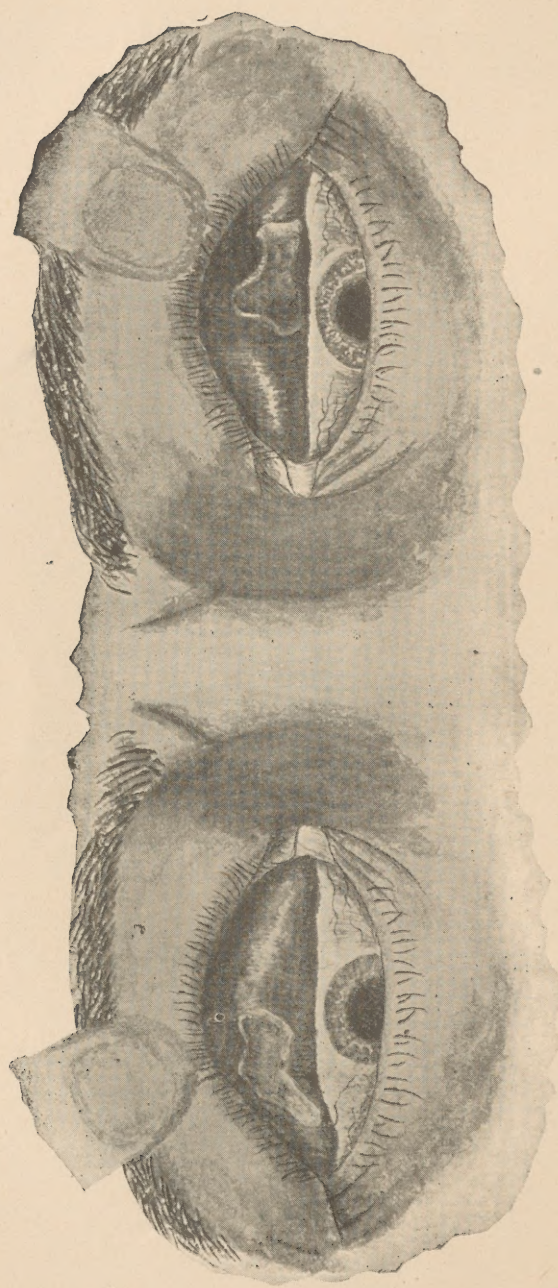
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A CASE OF BILATERAL SYPHILITIC ULCERATION OF THE PALPEBRAL CONJUNCTIVA-

A CASE OF BILATERAL SYPHILITIC ULCERATION OF THE PALPEBRAL CONJUNCTIVA.*

BY CLARENCE A. VEASEY, A. M., M. D.,

Adjunct Professor of Diseases of the Eye, Philadelphia Polyclinic; Demonstrator of Ophthalmology in the Jefferson Medical College.

O. L., aged twenty-eight years, a male, presented himself at the ophthalmic dispensary of the Jefferson Medical College Hospital (service of Dr. de Schweinitz) in the latter part of April, 1897, for the treatment of the following ocular condition: Each upper lip was markedly swollen and intensely red near the ciliary margin, the tarsi were thicker, harder and less pliable than normal, and the eyeballs were bathed in a thin muco-purulent discharge. After the latter had been washed away the corneæ were found to be normal, and the conjunctivæ of the lower lids and of the eye-balls somewhat injected. Upon everting the lids there were found symmetrically situated on the external halves of the palpebral conjunctivæ two extensive, irregularly outlined phagedenic ulcers. These extended from near the centre of the everted portions of the palpebral conjunctivæ in the direction of the external angles for about twelve to sixteen millimeters, measuring from edge to edge, the one on the right side being slightly the longer; the width varied, the widest portion of the right being seven millimeters, of the left, ten millimeters, again measuring between the edges. The edges, however, were everywhere extensively undermined, in some places the depth of the sulcus so formed being half a centimeter, and nowhere being less than two and a half millimeters. In depth, the ulcers extended to the tarsi, but the latter were not involved in the process at any point. The surfaces were covered with a grayish-yellow slough, and so strong was the resemblance to phagedenic chancreoid that had the ulcers been seen upon the generative organs, I believe one would scarcely have hesitated to have pronounced them as such.

The patient confessed to having acquired the initial lesion of syphilis seven months before our examination was made, and at the time of the examination there was a papular eruption of the body and limbs, and numerous mucous patches in the mouth. He was referred to the genito-urinary department, where he was placed upon rapidly increasing doses of protiodide of mercury. The local treatment of the ulcers consisted in frequent cleansings with a solution of formaldehyde and an occasional stimulation with a solution of nitrate of silver. At the expiration of two months the ulcers had entirely healed, leaving only slight scars and no distortion of the lids. The skin-eruption and the mucous patches had also disappeared.

* Read in the Section on Ophthalmology of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, January 18, 1898.



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